REMARKS

Applicant replies to the Final Office Action mailed on October 14, 2008 within two months. Claims 1-14 are pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-14. Applicant amends some of the claims and adds new claims 15-24. Applicant also cancels claims 2, 3, 8, 10, and 14 without prejudice to filing one or more applications having similar subject matter in the claims. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter is added by the amendments or new claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for agreeing to an interview on December 12, 2008. The Examiner and the Applicant discussed the cited references, claim language support, and potential claim amendments. Although no agreement was reached between the Examiner and Applicant, the discussion was appreciated, especially considering the short notice.

The Examiner rejects claims 5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, the enablement requirement, and as being indefinite. The Examiner states that the division and removal of a component are not adequately described in the specification. Applicant disagrees and believes that one skilled in the art is able to understand that dividing and removing a component, where the component may be hardware, is the equivalent of partitioning the functionality of the component and deactivating the component, respectively. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cogger et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,032,184 ("Cogger") in view of Buffalo et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,957,257 ("Buffalo"), and further in view of Jones et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,219,648 ("Jones"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

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Cogger is limited to opening and tracking trouble tickets using the Internet (Abstract). A user is able to add to, or edit, the trouble ticket when a system fault is detected. Cogger further discloses populating at least part of the trouble ticket in order to simplify the input process of the trouble ticket. Buffalo is cited in the Office Action for disclosing implementing tracking modifications made through a network management engine on one or more networks. Buffalo discloses "automatically providing infrastructure maintenance in response to a customer form/report/ticket in a communications network" (Col. 3, ln. 1-4). Moreover, Jones discloses "an apparatus and method for monitoring customer or subscriber generated trouble reports or tickets in a telecommunications or special services environment" (Col. 5, ln. 38-40). Furthermore, Jones is cited in the Office Action for disclosing comparing repair status information to a pre-established service level agreement specifying a level of service expected for repair of a failing component by an owning group.

However, the cited references do not disclose or contemplate adding and manipulating components of a network. As such, neither Cogger, Buffalo, Jones, nor any combination thereof, disclose or contemplate at least, *"loading, by a network management engine, a component for execution; linking, by the network management engine, the component to a network; modifying, by the network management engine, operating parameters of the component ..."*, as recited in amended, independent claim 1 (emphasis added).

Independent claims 6 and 9 recite similar features as those discussed in connection with claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or contemplate all of the elements of independent claims 1, 6, and 9, and Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 6, and 9 are allowable over the cited references.
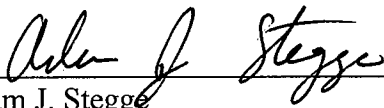
Additionally, dependent claims 4-5, 7, and 11-13, variously depend from independent claims 1, 6, and 9, so dependent claims 4-5, 7, and 11-13 are allowable over the cited references for the reasons set forth above, in addition to their own unique features.

New dependent claims 15-24 variously depend from independent claim 1, so new dependent claims 15-24 are allowable over the cited references for the reasons set forth above, in addition to their own unique features.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims properly set forth that which Applicants regard as their invention and are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience, if that would help further prosecution of the subject application. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees, including an extension fee, due to Deposit Account No. 19-2814.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _12-15-08_

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